



COLORADO
Gov. John Hickenlooper

June 18, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Paul Ryan
United States House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
United States House of Representatives
233 Cannon H.O.B.
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senators McConnell and Schumer and Representatives Ryan and Pelosi:

We write today to express our strong opposition to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's practice and policy of separating children from their parents when arriving at the southern border.

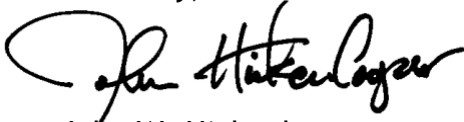
We recognize the importance of managing migration across our borders, but intentionally separating children from their families is cruel and un-American. In the past six weeks, U.S. agents have separated an estimated 2,000 children from their parents. It is beyond troubling that the U.S. Government would participate in such inhumane actions. The practice runs in conflict of our values as Coloradans and as a country. We must ensure that this change in policy is stopped.

We urge Congress to quickly consider and pass a clean version of the *Keep Families Together Act*. The bill, cosponsored by 39 senators and supported in its original form by many members in the House of Representatives, would allow the government to separate children from their parents only when there is suspected abuse or trafficking. Furthermore, additional safeguards have been built into the bill to ensure that the best interests of the child are taken into account before any separation occurs.



We believe such safeguards are prudent and would ensure enforcement policies are in line with our country's values.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John W. Hickenlooper". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "H".

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

CC:

U.S. Senator Michael Bennet
U.S. Senator Cory Gardner
U.S. Representative Ed Perlmutter
U.S. Representative Mike Coffman
U.S. Representative Jared Polis
U.S. Representative Diana DeGette
U.S. Representative Jared Polis
U.S. Representative Doug Lamborn
U.S. Representative Ken Buck
U.S. Representative Scott Tipton